

Sales

523 6th Ave. S.E.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
March 3, 1980

Vernon Klean
Regional Editor
Div. of Wildlife Resources
Illinois Dept. of Conservation
Springfield, Ill. 62706

Dear Mr. Klean,

Although I have never submitted material to *Am. Birds*, I have been caught up in the great support and many reports. I have been birding for 18 yrs. I'm 26. I've lived in C.R. for just over 1 yr. Before that I was in the Chicago area and met Larry Balch, Dave Johnson, Warren DeWalt and others.

1 Com. Loon remained at Cedar Lake (near C.L.) in downtown C.R. until 1/27. 1 No Pintail was sailed out of 400 Mallards on our Christmas Count 12/15 at C.L. 1, possibly 2 Gadwalls are wintering around C.R., last seen on 1/30. 2 Canvasbacks were seen on 12/6 at C.L. with 3 on the Christmas count and 2 lingered until 12/28. 1 and possibly 2 Greater Scaups were seen at C.L. 12/10 with 2 pairs on the Christmas Count documented by me. From 1-5 Com. Mergansers visited C.L. during the winter on 4 dates with 5 on 2/8.

A lone, adult Bald Eagle visited C.L. on 1/12 circling for 10 min and landing on the med.

Age lake to investigate something in the ice. After about 5 min. and 30 or so Com. Crows gathering around it, it flew off the same way it came (from the west.)

⇒ 1 light phase and 1 dark phase Rough-l. Hawks, which are extremely scarce this winter around C.R. were seen along I-5 near Rock Falls, Ill. 1 Long-eared Owl was flushed from the pines at Matzell Bridge on 2/9. 35 Am. Robins were in a small downtown park in C.R. during the 2nd week in Feb. (date uncertain).

The bird of the season which I'm sure will be reported many times was the ♀ Violet Thrush near Mentzelia, Ia. It was seen on 2/9 by Mr. & Mrs. Whelan (their home), Fred Thompson, Pete Wickham and me.

I noticed up to 200 Cedar Waxwings feeding on berries near downtown Cedar Rapids during the week of 24th-29th Feb. 1 ♂ Rusty Blackbird along Old River Rd. outside C.R. on 1/26, a little early, in a corn fields with Crows and Eur. Starlings.

1 White-c. Sparrow 7/24 at N. Liberty, Iowa.
Fred Thompson & I found 30[±] Lapland
Longspurs near Central City, Iowa for the
only ones I've seen this winter (scarcely
last winter too, only saw 1) And,
finally a lone Snow Bunting near Rock
Falls on 2/18, the only one seen in the
period

These observations were all seen only
by me with the exceptions of the Christ-
mas Count and when I have mentioned
other friends names.

Respectfully,
Tim Luter